A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

Connections

October 2011

Missouri Hosts Liveable Streets Workshop

by Michele Compton

On Aug. 25, architects, engineers and planners from MoDOT and communities across the Kansas City District sat down as one transportation group to talk about what it means to build livable streets at the Best Practices in Bicycle Pedestrian Design workshop.

Across the country, more communities recognize that drivers are not the only type of transportation, and in fact, more citizens request the safe sidewalks, bike routes and transit options that fit their lifestyle.

In May, the Missouri House of Representatives passed the Complete Streets Resolution, urging cities, communities and state transportation to consider bikers, pedestrians and transit users whenever they planned transportation projects. The Best Practices in Bicycle Pedestrian Design workshop, hosted in partnership with MU Extension, focused on just that -- making streets that accommodate any mode of transportation.

The all-day workshop featured internationally known Bicycle and Pedestrian Planner and Engineer Bruce Landis. His presentation included strategies to make neighborhoods, retail districts and other community settings more walkable, bikable and accessible to all.

"This program was designed to let planners look at a street objectively and see, based on what is going on in the roadway environment, exactly how to design a livable street," said Landis.

One of the things discussed was what makes a street more livable? It could be as simple as sidewalks and crosswalks. But planners also consider wheelchair ramps, bicycle paths, mixed-use paths that may host joggers and dog walkers alike, bus stops, or even paved shoulders in a rural area.

In August, the Kansas City District hosted the Livable Streets Design Workshop led by nationally known expert Bruce Landis.

Several locations joined the workshop via webinar, including Jefferson City, St. Louis District Office, Northeast District, Southeast District Office, Northwest District Office, Southwest District Office and Macon.

A Few More Missourians Are Making it Click

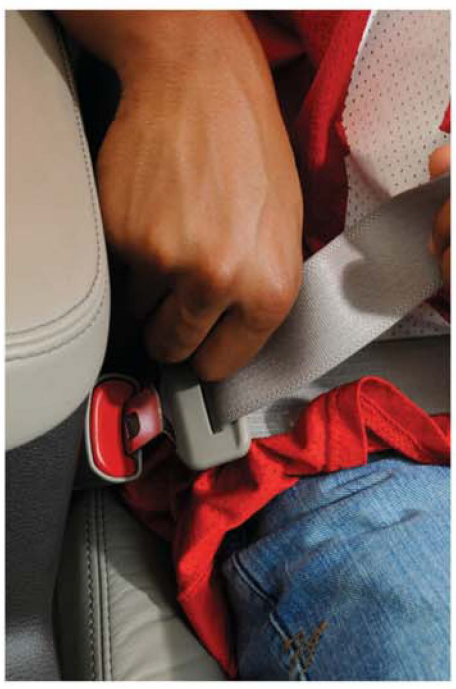
by Sandra Hentges

A recent survey of Missouri motorists show that more Missourians are getting the message to buckle up. However, a full 21 percent of the general public and 33 percent of teens still don't wear their seat belts.

The number of people who buckle up rose slightly from last year's survey data, going up three percent from 76 to 79 percent of the general public and up just one percent among teenagers, from 66 to 67 percent. In 2010, 392 people killed in traffic crashes were unbuckled.

"The survey numbers continue to be relatively flat," said Leanna Depue, highway safety director. "The sad truth is a simple click can prevent the needless and tragic injury and death of so many people involved in traffic crashes."

Wearing a seat belt is your best defense in a crash because it provides protection from being ejected and keeps motorists from smashing into windshields, dashboards and other passengers.



"All the data and the experts agree that seat belts are life-saving devices," said Depue. "But convincing all Missouri motorists is a difficult task. A primary seat belt law, instead of the secondary one Missouri has, would certainly save more lives each year."

At 79 percent use, Missouri is still six percent under the national average of 85 percent seat belt use. Thirty-two states have primary seat belt laws; Missouri is one of 17 states that has a secondary law. New Hampshire has neither a primary nor a secondary law. Nineteen municipalities and one county have adopted primary ordinances in Missouri.

Some vehicle types stand out when looking at seat belt use. Pickup truck drivers are among the worst with only 66 percent buckling up according to the 2011 observational survey. Of the 152 pickup drivers killed in 2010, 87.1 percent were unbuckled.

The annual survey involved more than 127,720 observations of drivers and passengers in 460 locations in both urban and rural counties. Missouri worked with The Missouri Safety Center to conduct the survey. From 2004-2010, the usage rate has fluctuated only slightly between 75 and 77 percent.

The department incorporated new strategies into this year's Click It or Ticket Campaign. They include using portable message boards to post messages about fatalities and seat belt citations; partnering with high schools and large employers to get them to adopt seat belt policies; and providing incentives to positively reinforce wearing a seat belt. Click It or Ticket is a national campaign designed to increase seat belt use and reduce highway fatalities. The campaign couples high-visibility enforcement with education.

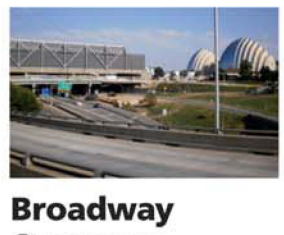
Inside

5

New Welcome Center
Work begins on a new welcome center in the NW District

6

Playing Safe
A NE District playground is safer with MoDOT's help

7

Broadway Overpass
Urban bridge in KC District connects art and history

9

Buckle Up!
Annual safety fair educates community in St. Louis District

11
Above and Beyond
Employees respond quickly to help a man with heat exhaustion in the SE District

Quite Frankly

In June, I promised you I would keep you informed about the progress in implementing the Bolder Five-Year Direction. We're now several months into that process.

A new management team is now in place that is energized and excited to lead. Now, we turn attention to filling the rest of our positions. We continue with the same plan to put the right people in the right positions.

Employees who currently hold jobs in the maintenance worker series will not have to compete for jobs. Your performance must continue to be successful, but I keep to my word that "boots on the ground" employees will continue to have a significant presence in every county of Missouri.

Remaining positions will be filled through a competitive process, with layoffs as a last step. However, based on attrition rates and where work will be needed, that step could start as early as Fall of 2012.

With tough choices and many changes, these months have not been easy. But please know that your dedication to MoDOT and your job and your ability to continue delivering quality work for Missourians during this time of transition is greatly appreciated.

Kevin

MoDOT Has a New Exit Interview Tool

A team, made up of District Human Resource staff, the Equal Opportunity and Diversity Division, and Information Systems staff, was put together to develop a new Exit Interview Survey for employees separating from the department. The new survey asks fewer questions that provide more relevant information and only takes about 10 minutes to complete.

MoDOT's contract with the existing Exit Interview company, NOBSCOT, was terminated at the end of September and the new system became available Oct. 1. By developing an internal exit interview, MoDOT will save money and have better access and complete ownership over the database and stored information.

Employees have the option of completing the survey online and submitting via email or printing a copy and mailing it in. To complete the survey online, employees need to use their network user id and password. Employees without Internet access or a network user id may contact their local HR representative or their direct supervisor for a printed copy of the form.

To find the survey, go to the EODD sharepoint site and click on the Exit Interview Quicklink.
The exit interview link is http://sharepoint/facilitation/EOD/exitinterviews/SitePages/Home.aspx.

All separating employees are encouraged to complete an exit interview, as the information submitted can provide valuable information to management. For questions or concerns regarding the exit interview, please feel free to contact your local HR representative or email EODD staff at *EqualOpportunity@modot.mo.gov.*

Program Encourages Walking for Lifelong Fitness

by Jim Dickson

For the past 14 years, the International Walk to School Day has focused parents and school children on the healthy benefits of walking. The effort has grown from just a few thousand participants to annually reaching more than 3 million children in 40 countries. Here in the U.S. more than 3,200 schools participated in this year's event Oct. 5.

In Missouri, more than 50 schools sponsored a variety of activities.

"We've encouraged schools to not only have special activities on Oct. 5 but also throughout the entire month," said Safe Routes to School Coordinator Jeff Cremer. "Our hope is that a month-long focus on walking to school will encourage parents and communities to establish ongoing walking and cycling programs."

Health professionals suggests that children have at least 60 minutes of physical activity a day, and walking or cycling to school can be a great start. However, national statistics show that only 10 percent of children walk to school regularly. And only 25 percent of children living within one mile of school are regular walkers.

Walking or biking to school with your children is a great investment of your time. You can teach your children the proper way to safely walk or bike to school, reduce vehicle congestion around schools and lay a great foundation for a healthier lifestyle.

One of the most popular program activities is called the walking school bus. Groups of children walk designated routes to school under adult supervision, picking up kids along the way just like a bus. For some neighborhoods it's a casual group walk, while others set up a formal plan with adults scheduled to walk on certain days. Families who live farther from school can drive part of the way and join the walk along the designated route.

Don't know where to start? The National Center for Safe Routes to School website has a wealth of resources for parents and teachers to organize yearlong walking and cycling activities. You can take the first step in a healthier lifestyle for your children by going to *www.walktoschool.org.*

Battle of the Belt Kicks Off

The Battle of the Belt high school seat belt challenge kicked off Sept. 13 in Malden, Mo. Speakers included Leanna Depue, Chair of the executive committee of the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety, state and area law enforcement, a representative with Ford Motor Company and a local high school student.

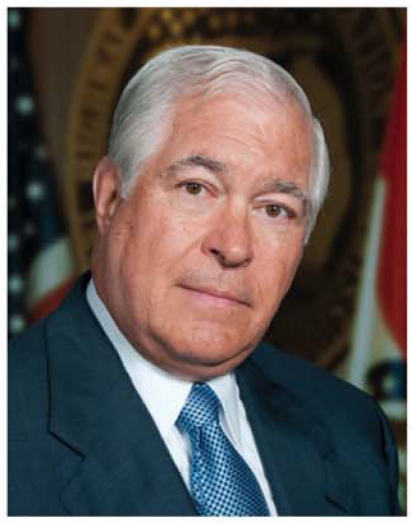
Malden was an ideal choice for the kick-off event. Malden High School had one of the lowest seat belt use rates in the 2010 survey of Missouri high schools.

For 2011, Ford Driving Skills for Life has added a groovin' incentive to Battle of the Belt. Through a grant provided by the Governors Highway Safety Association, Ford Driving Skills for Life donated $20,000 worth of iTunes cards to be used as rewards for schools that sign up for the challenge.

For more information, visit *www.facebook.com/southeastcoalition.*

The Battle of the Belt high school seat belt challenge kicked off Sept. 13 in Malden, Mo.

Meet Your Commissioner



Cathy Morrison

In December 2009, we began a series within Connections highlighting Missouri State Highways and Transportation Commissioners. Since that series, Commissioner Kenneth H. Suelthaus was appointed and in this issue, we learn more about his background and goals for Missouri transportation.

Q. Please tell us a little about your background and/or career.

A. I have been a practicing attorney for more than forty years. My practice centers around corporate and business matters, especially for banks and bank holding companies. Currently, I am the Vice Chairman of Polsinelli Shughart PC, a national law firm with eighteen offices around the United States.

Q. What attracted you to becoming part of the MHTC?

A. The idea of becoming involved in transportation planning and projects, albeit not hands-on, was very interesting to me. I have long realized the importance of transportation to a vibrant economy.

Q. What has been your most interesting experience as part of the Commission?

A. My most interesting experience was also the most difficult, which was to consider and help shape the Bolder Five Year Direction on which MoDOT has embarked.

Q. What have you learned about Missouri transportation?

A. I have learned that MoDOT is a well-managed and responsive organization. The citizens of Missouri think highly of MoDOT, and I am sure they would be even more enthusiastic if they realized how well MoDOT compares with other governmental agencies, both state and federal.

Q. What direction would you like to see Missouri transportation take?

A. Transportation is extremely important to economic development throughout Missouri. I would like to see the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission receive the funding necessary to make major highway improvements, starting with improving the very overburdened Interstate 70 between St. Louis and Kansas City.

Q. What has been your favorite road trip or vacation, in Missouri or otherwise?

A. I have traveled extensively throughout Missouri. There are many parts of the state that are very picturesque, especially in the fall.

Q. What are your hobbies and interests?

A. My hobbies include bicycling, boating, and long driving trips. Recently, I drove from St. Louis to Jasper, Alberta, Canada and back, which was nearly 5,000 miles.

Q. What would most MoDOT employees not know about you?

A. I have an undergraduate degree in industrial engineering. Therefore, the engineering aspects of what MoDOT does are of real interest to me. I always want to know how projects are designed and constructed.

Trekking the Trail

Cathy Morrison

Jim Feeney, maintenance crew leader at Weldon Spring and his wife, Theo, are walking the Katy Trail this year to raise money for the Fallen Workers Memorial. This is the third year they make this walk, beginning Oct. 7 in Matson and finishing Oct. 11 in Jefferson City. The walk is sponsored by the Missouri Transportation Employees Association. For information on donating to the memorial, visit www.moshea.org.

Open Enrollment for Active MoDOT Employees

October 17 – November 14, 2011

For more information, visit www.modot.org/newsandinfo/benefits.htm

October Service Anniversaries

35 Years

Dennis J. Benefield	SE

30 Years

Samuel F. Vice	NE
Michael A. Roberts	KC
Richard J. Hamilton	SL

25 Years

Randall E. Ashley	KC
Timothy C. Ackert	CD

20 Years

Jafar G. Dehghani	NW
David S. Thompson	NE
William N. White	NE
William C. Porter	CD
Monica R. Bax	SL
Dawndy J. Baum	SW
Gill B. Welton	SW
J. Mark Barton	SE
Jessica B. Sawyer	CO
Kathryn P. Harvey	CO

15 Years

Bruce A. Nichols	NW
Darrell L. Benedict	NW
Duston W. Wilson	NE
Jacob D. Kerby	NE
Jerry D. Hanger	KC
Barbara J. Orrison	KC
Latha C. Iyanar	SL
Michael B. Workes	SL
Doyle D. Clement	SW
Harold D. Merritt	SE

10 Years

Correy A. Miller	NW
Robert D. Crow	NW
Mitchell E. Landes	SW
Henry C. Knight	CO
Tanya M. Powell	CO
Kenneth Sowers	CO
Joseph T. Pestka	CO

5 Years

Richard G. Baumli	NW
William M. Hays	NE
Jenna John	KC
Scot D. Cockrum	KC
Melvin X. Brown	SL
Jacob L. Heitmann	SL
John D. Qualls	SL
Bryan L. Overstreet	SW
Steven D. Ness	SW
Garrin W. Richardson	SW
Carson J. Cash	SW
Michael S. Davis	SW
James K. Haskew	SW
Levi T. Colbert	SE
Millicent I. Parker	CO

August Retirements

Name	District	Years of Service
Sam Grimes	NE	13
Neva Attebery	NE	21
William Barred	CD	25
Larry Burke	SL	40
Larry Grither	SL	37
Armin Herrman	SW	34
Mark Willis	SW	32
Thomas Rath	SW	12
Darrell Slatten	SW	8
Ronald Temme	CO	36
Sharon Clack	CO	29
Denise Taylor	CO	8

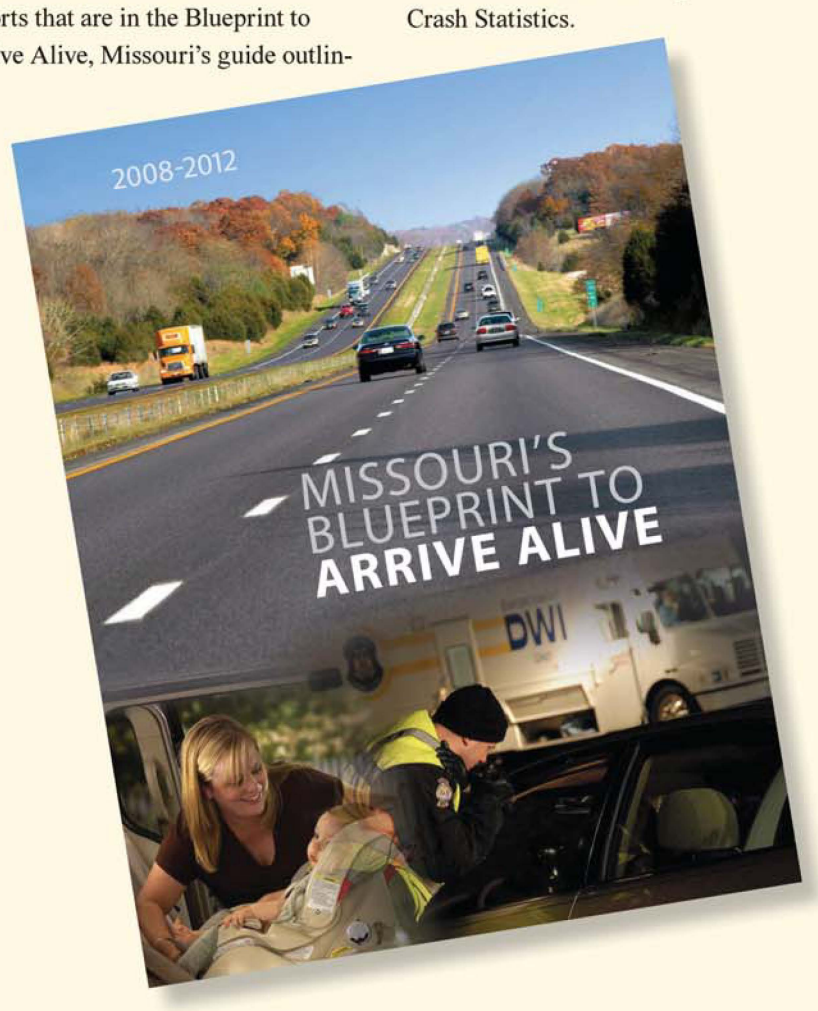
In Memoriam

Active		
Corey Washington	SL	Aug. 15
Retirees	**Retired From:**	
Byford Phillips	D5	Aug. 1
Kenneth Jackson	D1	Aug. 6
Lawrence Miller	D9	Aug. 7
Charles Shupe	D7	Aug. 9
Philip Morgan	CO	Aug. 10
Darwin Triplett	D2	Aug. 15
Gene Alexander	D4	Aug. 17
Rex Clark	D2	Aug. 27

Central Office

Blueprint Crash Statistics

A new application is available on *Modot.org* that features the most requested statistics regarding traffic crashes in Missouri. This application contains all the fatality and disabling injury crash reports that are in the Blueprint to Arrive Alive, Missouri's guide outlining strategies to reduce traffic fatalities. Users can run reports statewide and search by region, county, city and more. To view, visit *www.MoDOT.org/safety* and click the link for Blueprint Crash Statistics.



The application is also available for smart phone users. When accessing the website from your smart device, the application will automatically default to the mobile link and will display only the selection criteria for easier viewing.

All reports contain three years' worth of data and are in .pdf format. When the current year's data is finalized, it will be added to the application.

There are several ways to access this new tool:

- *www.modot.mo.gov/safety/BlueprintCrashStatistics.htm*
- *www.savemolives.com/facts-figures.html*
- *wwwi/intranet/hs*

Here to HELP

Jan Skouby

Jan Skouby, director of MoDOT's Motor Carrier Services Division, was named to the executive committee of the board of directors for a partnership working to improve highway safety and efficiency.

The Heavy Vehicle Electronic License Plate, Inc., is a national not-for-profit, public-private partnership. HELP ensures its initiatives benefit the public and private sectors through a board comprised of an equal number of public officials and commercial vehicle operators. Its flagship service is the PrePass weigh station service.

Skouby will work to promote efficiency for the states and for motor carriers. She serves a two-year term.

"This organization helps us as a nation deliver our goods more safely and efficiently," said Skouby. "I'm very glad to be a part of it."

According to Richard A. Clasby, president and CEO of HELP, "The election of these officers will ensure vigorous volunteer leadership and geographic diversity as the PrePass weigh station system adds more states and HELP launches new service offerings."

For more information, please visit *www.helpprepass.com.*

Diverse Business Leader Award

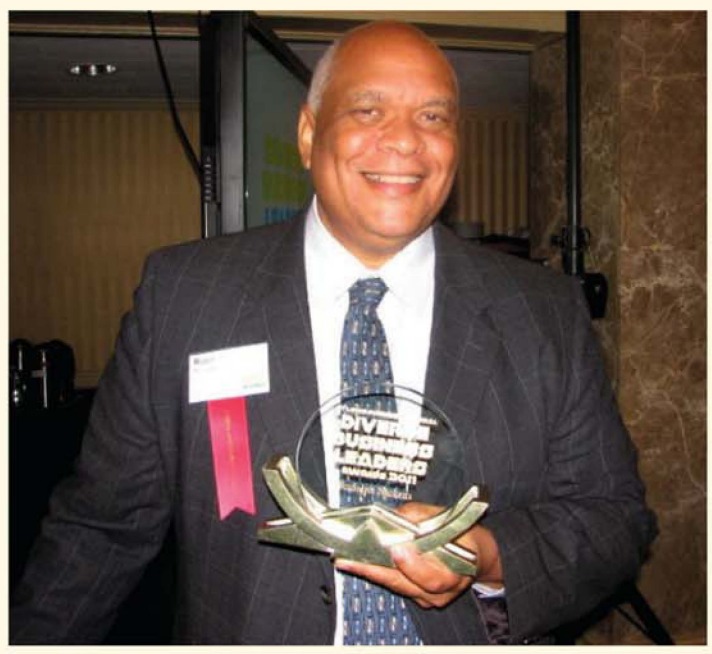
Rudy Nickens, director of EEOC, has been honored by the St. Louis Business Journal as a strong leader working for a better community.

As one of the recipients of the 2011 Diverse Business Leader award, he is recognized as exemplifying the values that contribute to business diversity. The award honors individuals who promote diversity around race, sexual orientation and disability in the work place.

Nickens says the award is a reflection of MoDOT's strength in its commitment to diversity.

"I respect MoDOT's leadership in building a strong, diverse workforce, and I'm so glad to have the opportunity to share in that," said Nickens.

One benefit to being a part of this distinguished group of business leaders is the networking opportunity. A networking event was held at Webster University, the sponsor of this year's awards, on Sept. 13. Nickens had the opportunity to meet the other 23 honorees, along with those who have received the award in past years. He was able to speak with peers about goals and challenges MoDOT faces and learn about the different roles in each individual's work force.



Rudy Nickens

"A big challenge for MoDOT is getting everyone within the organization to think of diversity as everyone's responsibility, just like we think of safety," said Nickens.

"These three things – work, will, success – fill human existence. Will opens the door to success, both brilliant and happy, work passes these doors, and at the end of the journey success comes in to crown one's efforts."

Louis Pasteur

"One of the things that I think I've tried to do is to tie diversity to our business plan and to our performance," said Nickens. "So for instance, we have a lot of people who are in our workforce who have very safety-sensitive positions. And you want to make sure that people who are working with you on the roads and bridges are thoughtful or cooperative or supportive of each other."

Nickens was honored Sept. 9 at an awards luncheon in St. Louis. He was also profiled in the St. Louis Business Journal during the week of Sept. 9.

for more info

Connections Editor: Laura Holloway
Phone: 573.751.5985
E-mail: laura.holloway@modot.mo.gov

105 W. Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65109

Northwest District

Flood Update

by M. Elaine Justus

Jon Morrow

Flooding on the Missouri River remains the top story for the Northwest District. This photo was taken by pilot Jon Morrow looking west on Route 59 toward Atchison, Kan.

As we go to press, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has begun to reduce the amount of water released from the Gavin's Point Dam. What the receding flood waters are exposing are damaged pavement, entire roadways washed away, rich bottom land covered with sand and silt, homes and farms so water soaked that they are not salvageable, let alone inhabitable.

The next step for MoDOT is to get flooded roads open as quickly as possible. MoDOT crews have begun repairing flood damaged portions of U.S. 136 in Atchison County, and emergency contracts are being let to address damage elsewhere. The plan is to make repairs as quickly as possible using a combination of internal and contract work to get the job done. According to District Engineer Don Wichern, "Our primary goal is to get these roads open and safe as soon as we can to alleviate travel frustrations for the people who live, work and travel in this area of the state. Even with the water flowing over these roads since the beginning of June, we've been making plans to be ready to move forward as soon as we could to get the roads open." Plans include assessing damages where possible, getting prepared to let emergency contracts, stockpiling materials for repairs to fill holes and gaps in the pavement, and working with officials to request federal funding.

High Wind Damage

by M. Elaine Justus

Troy Slagle

High winds in September caused the collapse of the Troop H Highway Patrol Communications tower. The tower was originally built in the 1950s.

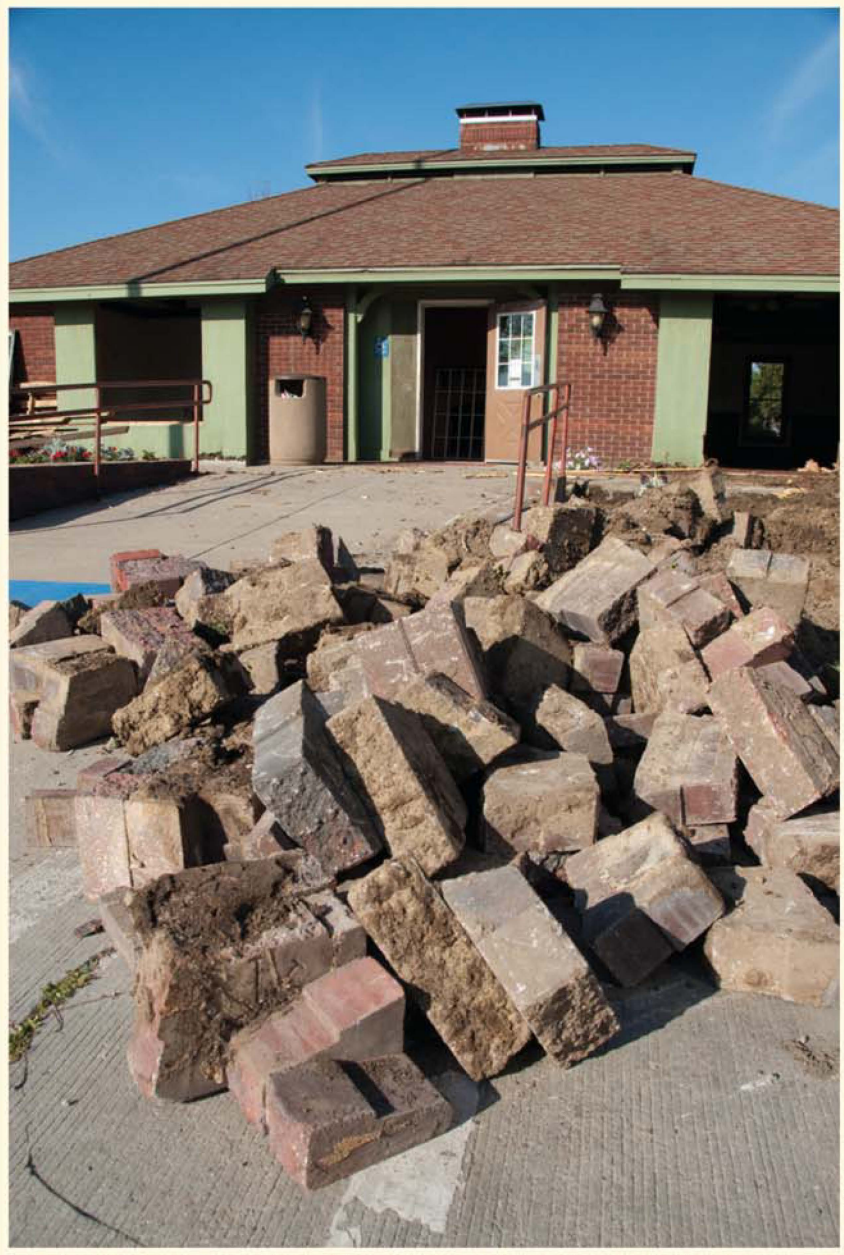
for more info

Customer Relations Manager Melissa Black
Phone 816.387.2481
E-mail melissa.black@modot.mo.gov

3602 N. Belt Highway
St. Joseph, MO 64506-1399

The New Rock Port Welcome Center Begins

by M. Elaine Justus



Shaun W. Schmitz

The first phase of demolition of the old Rock Port Welcome Center involves removing and recycling all possible materials.

Work on the latest Welcome Center in Missouri has finally begun. The Missouri Division of Tourism, which was housed in the old facility, has been temporarily relocated to a trailer at Mound City. On Aug. 29, the backhoes and bulldozers moved on to the site of the Rock Port Welcome Center and began removal of the old structure, and began preparation of the site for the new, improved facility.

Funds for the project are being provided in large part by a Federal Enhancement Funding Grant that can only be used for projects of this type and cannot be used for the building or repair of highways.

The contract for construction of the new facility has been awarded to Loch Sand and Construction Co. of Maryville, Mo., in the amount of $5,121,032.20. The theme of the new building is "Energy Conservation and Alternative Energy: Past & Present." In line with that theme, MoDOT is seeking Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification. According to the LEED website: "LEED is an internationally recognized green building certification system which provides building owners and operators with a framework for identifying and implementing practical and measurable green building design, construction, operations and maintenance solutions."

The new facility will feature aspects of alternative energy and conservation in addition to improved accommodations for travelers, an expanded tourism facility, and an enlarged parking area for passenger cars, travel trailers and semi-trailer trucks.

As part of the goal of energy education, MoDOT is working closely with students from Missouri Western State University to develop external panels that will define the evolution of energy development and usage.

MoDOT is also working with the Missouri Arts Council, members of the Missouri Division of Tourism, and representatives from the Rock Port community to begin the search for a professional muralist to complete the interior 44-foot wall in a way that will enhance the overall theme of the facility.

The original building was opened to the public in 1981 and, according to Welcome Center Supervisor Beverly King, "We're very excited, and looking forward to getting back to work in our new, beautiful location."

Northeast District

District Holds Dialogue Sessions

District MoDOT representatives recently visited with the public in Monroe County as part of a series of dialogue sessions which will be held at various locations within the next several months.

Area Engineer Brian Haeffner speaks to the public during a recent dialogue session in Paris.

The first meeting was held on Aug. 29 in Paris and 19 people attended. The sessions provide more opportunites for northeast Missourians to communicate directly with state and federal officials.

The dialogue sessions are also offered online at *www.modot.org/northeast*.

Macon Playground Now Safer With MoDOT's Help

At the end of last month, an SUV ran off U.S. 63 and through a fence that surrounds the playground of the Macon R-I School hitting a swing set. Luckily, no children were playing at the time.

Area Engineer Brian Haeffner met with the school board to develop an immediate temporary solution.

"With school starting the next week, we decided to place concrete barriers to provide a safer environment," Haeffner explained.

Maintenance Superintendent Dale Niece and Pavement Specialist Jeff Kroner, along with employees from roadsides, special crew, welding crew and bridge crew placed concrete barriers along the fence line next to the sidewalk. The barriers came from the maintenance lot at Luray in Clark County. Luray maintenance crews loaded the barriers getting them ready for the trip to Macon and then the crews spent just part of a day putting them in place.

Crews place a temporary barrier wall along the playground area at the Macon elementary school.

"This is a great temporary safety improvement and community partnering that will buy time for the school to come up with a more permanent solution," Haeffner added.

Bevier Students Celebrate Sidewalk Improvement Project

Students all across Missouri headed back to school recently, many of them walking to get there and then walking back home at the end of the day. Students in Bevier are finding their walk much safer this year thanks to brand new sidewalks.

A national program called Safe Routes to School is a federal grant program that provides safer biking and walking accommodations for children in grades Kindergarten through 8th grade. The program is designed to provide public awareness and outreach efforts and improve biking and walking conditions around the schools.

The Bevier sidewalk project included over 6,000 square feet of sidewalk varying in width from six to ten feet throughout the downtown area. The $250,000 cost was completely funded by the SRTS federal grant program.

To celebrate the completion of the project, Bevier principal Lisa Borden, along with several classes of students and teachers, gathered in downtown Bevier at the steam engine on Sept. 2. Principal Borden and her students and teachers joined State Rep. Tom Shively, Bevier Mayor Bill Cosby, School Superintendent Joan Patrick, Macon County Economic Development Coordinator Denise Bennett and representatives of MoDOT, who offered brief remarks during the celebration.

The Bevier School Jazz Band provided music, and the students unveiled an art project to conclude the event.

Children bring out a banner to show their appreciation during the ribbon-cutting ceremony in Bevier on Sept. 5.

Route 79 to Open This Month

There is good news for the residents of Pike County and Ashburn, as well as Missouri 79 Scenic Byway travelers. Work to replace the new one-mile section of Route 79 in the Salt River Bottoms near Ashburn will open later this month.

The route has been closed since November 2009 after a portion of the road gave way to a slide.

"Crews have finished the clearing and are hauling rock fill for the road base," said Jerad Noland, district design engineer. "By mid-September crews will begin dirt operations on the road base."

Construction continues on Route 79 on Sept. 13, 2011.

Baldwin Recognized for Hard Work

Construction Inspector Brandi Baldwin was recently recognized for her exceptional work on the Safe & Sound Bridge Project as well as work on the Route 54 Bridge. Former Safe & Sound Regional Engineer Preston Kramer provided the commendation to Baldwin.

"Your efforts on the Safe and Sound Program, especially on the Route 54 Bridge, have not gone unnoticed and are greatly appreciated," Preston said. "Your continued efforts at high communication, coordination, and product quality are attributes that should be commended and rewarded. Without these high levels of performance, reopening of the Route 54 Bridge in only 26 calendar days would not have been possible."

According to Preston, on several occasions during the projects, Baldwin missed other outside events with her family to meet MoDOT goals, but she never complained.

for more info

Customer Relations Manager Marisa Brown-Ellison
Phone 573.248.2502
E-mail marisa.ellison@modot.mo.gov

Route 61 South
P.O. Box 1067
Hannibal, MO 63401

Kansas City District

Urban Bridge Connects Art and History in Kansas City's Downtown District

by Michele Compton

It's been called the "antidote for the boring bridges." The Broadway Overpass over I-670 in the southwest corner of Kansas City's Downtown Loop is the result of effective state and city cooperation, combined with a flair for art and performance.

A joint MoDOT and Kansas City effort, the Broadway Overpass project expands and enhances a key avenue through downtown. Originally built in 1966, the structure supports approximately 20,000 drivers each day. The new bridge is wider and includes 10' sidewalks for pedestrians attending events at Bartle Hall, the Power & Light District and the new Kauffman Performing Arts Center.

It also features that classic Kansas City art deco style that epitomizes the KC skyline. Backlit panels will give the entire bridge a warm glow after the sun sets.

Deconstruction, Reconstruction

Situated at the apex of three major interstates, as well as next to the city's busy civic center, you may ask: How does a crew tear down and completely rebuild a bridge in the center of the city? The answer is very carefully.

Unlike a bridge across a water way, the Broadway Bridge over I-670 spans a major interstate and multiple interstate to interstate ramps, connecting a key corridor through Kansas City. There were no impressive pyrotechnics to bring this urban overpass to the ground. Instead it was dismantled, piece by piece, keeping debris to a minimum. The interstate below was closed for one weekend to give crews an unfettered shot to knock as much concrete down as possible.

But bringing down is never as time consuming as putting it back together again. Crews had a very aggressive schedule to have the bridge reopened.

The Broadway Overpass leads to the new, state-of-the-art Kauffman Performing Arts Center.

When crews rebuild a bridge in a more rural setting, they clear an area to store materials, equipment and debris. In an urban setting, crews have to plan carefully. Materials delivered that day must be used that day. For concrete pours, the concrete truck has a pre-appointed time.

Safety is always a concern on a construction project but when you're working mere feet from traffic entering and exiting ramps, it becomes a constant reminder that every little inch counts.

"Many of our construction barriers offer several feet of working room between barrel and bumper," said Matt Killion, Area Engineer. "But for an urban project, that several feet quickly shrinks to a foot. Our crews have to think twice before even leaning over the barrier too far."

A Blue-Ribbon Project

The Broadway Overpass closed in early May, and in record timing, crews removed and replaced the bridge in five months.

MoDOT and its general contractor, Clarkson Construction Co., delivered the completed project in time and under budget for a cool September morning ribbon cutting.

The aggressive schedule complimented the completion of the iconic new Kauffmann Center for the Performing Arts, which is located just a block south of the bridge. The Kauffman and its supporters were also among the supporters for the new bridge. The performing arts center is expected to draw audiences from across the country.

Situated next to such a gem, the new Broadway Overpass has the structural pizzazz to impress, and the endurance to support the city for decades to come.

The soft lighting behind the panels gives the bridge a beautiful glow in the night sky, adding one more lovely element to downtown Kansas City.

The interstate below the new bridge was diverted for one weekend as crews quickly removed the existing Broadway Overpass.

for more info

Customer Relations Manager	Jennifer Benefield
Phone	816.607.2153
E-mail	jennifer.benefield@modot.mo.gov

600 NE Colbern Road
Lee's Summit, MO 64086

The Paseo Bridge Stands No Longer

by Jennifer Benefield

Albert Janssens

In the final phase of the kcICON design-build project, Paseo Corridor Constructors prepares the remaining portion of a Paseo Bridge pier for removal on Aug. 9. The concrete pier was blasted apart with explosives in the early morning hours of Aug. 17. Crews removed the debris from the Missouri River.

Central District

Central District Moves Forward with Improvement Projects

Throughout the summer, the Central District held public hearings and meetings across mid-Missouri to move forward with some high-impact construction projects.

Between July 7 and 28, four public meetings were held to present project information and gather public comment. MoDOT holds these public events to give all citizens an active voice in their transportation facilities. Whether the project will cost $100,000 or $10 million, it's critical to gather responses from the community to make sure the improvement is appropriate for their needs.

Kristin Gerber

Senior Highway Designer Mia Peters explains the construction plan for the Route 5 Hurricane Deck Bridge.

Residents of Boone County came out on July 7 to learn more about plans to add shoulders to accommodate bicycle lanes on a section of Route K between Route 163 and the Katy Trail at McBaine.

The new shoulders would improve safety for those traveling on Route K and complement the non-motorized transportation system improvements under development in the Columbia region. The work would cost approximately $2 million and is scheduled for the 2012 construction season.

On July 12, a public hearing was held in Tuscumbia to discuss the replacement of the historic Saline Creek bridge on Route 17 in Miller County. The existing bridge, which is located about three miles north of the Route 17 and Route 52 intersection, was built in 1925.

The new Saline Creek bridge would be built in the same location and would be eight feet wider than the current structure. The cost would be about $2 million, and the design team is still determining the best time for construction since it would require closing Route 17 at that location.

One of the more unique projects to fall to the district was presented to Camden County on July 28. A public hearing was held to gather public input about the location and design of a new Hurricane Deck Bridge on Route 5, near Sunrise Beach. Plans for construction call for building temporary bridge pilings next to the existing bridge's piers. Crew would then construct the new bridge on the temporary piers, and then would slide the bridge laterally onto the existing piers.

The $25 million project would take about two years to construct, and could start in 2012. The sliding bridge concept would help save money and prevent long-term closures on Route 5, which serves as a heavily-used corridor in the Lake of the Ozarks region.

Even though MoDOT finished the new U.S. 50 in Moniteau County last summer, work to improve the old highway is still necessary. A public meeting on July 26 allowed the community of McGirk to learn about plans to realign a portion of Old Route 50 at Route PP.

Work includes relocating Old Route 50 near the intersection by shifting it south by 12 feet. The turning area from Route PP to Old Route 50 will also be widening so large vehicles have more room to complete their turns. After the work is complete in late 2011, MoDOT will transfer ownership of Old Route 50 and Route PP to Moniteau County.

Kristin Gerber

Senior Highway Designer Terry Bolton and District Planning Manager Steve Engelbrecht reviewed a map of the Saline Creek bridge with meeting attendees.

At its September meeting, the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission awarded the construction contract for the Old Route 50 project. The location and design plans for the three other projects were also approved. The district will now move forward with more detailed design work and right of way acquisition.

Around the District

Jill Stedem

Area Engineer Mike Schupp and other district employees joined representatives from the City of Columbia and Boone County on Sept. 12 to celebrate the completion of improvements on Route TT (Scott Blvd.). The project was a partnership between agencies and MoDOT will transfer ownership of nearly two miles of Scott Blvd. to the city as part of the project.

Mid-Missouri employees and their families spent June 25 riding their motorcycles to honor MoDOT employees who have lost their lives in the line of duty. This "unofficial" ride for remembrance was organized by Senior Construction Technician Dan Weaver (bottom left).

These before and after photos show how district maintenance crews improved a portion of Route J in Salem. This low-cost solution means better drainage and less upkeep.

Bob Heald

Rocks and dirt fly as a blast clears more ground for the new interchange on Route 179 in Jefferson City. Crews began work in July on the $7 million project that will eventually provide access to the new St. Mary's Health Center development.

for more info

Customer Relations Manager Kristin Gerber
Phone 573.522.3375
E-mail kristin.gerber@modot.mo.gov

1511 Missouri Boulevard
P.O. Box 718
Jefferson City, MO 65102

St. Louis District

MoDOT Educates Community on Safe Driving at 2011 Show Me Safety Fair

by Shirlyn Myles

Over 1,000 people, including volunteers and vendors, attended MoDOT's annual safety fair that was held in mid-September. This year's safety fair was centered on child passenger safety and seat belt usage, which was held on the grounds of the Urban League in Jennings, for the third time.

Children received bike helmets, gift bags and other giveaways. Teens were given Arrive Alive T-shirts and educated on the importance of buckling-up and sober driving. Better Family Life, a MoDOT community partner, awarded a $75 savings bonds to one child participating in the car seat check registration.

Certified technicians checked registered car seats for proper installation. Recalled, damaged, age inappropriate and expired seats were replaced by new seats, which were purchased by Kohl's Care. Other seats were installed correctly, with parents trained to properly secure their child.

St. Louis University Cancer Center provided a health screening, including onsite cardiac monitoring. SLU also provided kidney, diabetes, blood pressure, and cholesterol screening as well.

The safety fair is part of Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety's initiative to reduce the number of roadway fatalities to fewer than 820 in Missouri.

Jermyn Johnson, senior materials technician, adjusts the straps to properly install the car seat for a safety fair attendee.

Ken Cherry, regional maintenance supervisor in North St. Louis County, discusses the dangers of impaired driving with a safety fair visitor.

for more info

Customer Relations
Phone
E-mail

Marie Elliott
314.453.1807
marie.elliott@modot.mo.gov

1590 Woodlake Drive
Chesterfield, MO 63017

Holly Hills and Delor Bridges Open Ahead of Schedule

by Andrew Gates and Kara Price

Several state legislators, St. Louis City representatives, residents and businesses participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Motorists in St. Louis city are now able to use the Holly Hills and Delor Bridges over Interstate 55, after it was closed for approximately five to six months for a bridge replacement project. MoDOT held a ribbon-cutting ceremony in early September to celebrate the early opening of these two bridges, which are one month ahead of schedule.

The $3 million project removed and replaced both bridges over Interstate 55. The new bridges are higher over the interstate to help improve the flow of truck traffic. Congratulations to the St. Louis City area team for your hard work in getting this project done early!

St. Louis Leads the Way for Most Trash Bags Collected in Missouri

Kudos from Tom Blair, Assistant District Engineer

WOW! Team MoDOT picked up almost 160,000 bags of litter during the 2011 No MOre Trash! Bash. The St. Louis region led the way for total bags collected throughout the state (61,191) with an outstanding effort by MoDOT employees and Adopt-A-Highway volunteers!

Congratulations to the Broadway maintenance crews in St. Louis City that picked up the most trash bags in April for the region.

in one day during this year's No MOre Trash! Bash. As promised, the St. Louis leadership rewarded these groups with a recognition lunch at the Broadway maintenance building in mid-September.

The Franklin County area team received honorable mention for having the biggest trash bash event with a combination of the most participation from employees and community partners. All of these results represent MoDOT's value of being one team because we share the same mission! Thank you St. Louis employees!

The General Services department is the top non-maintenance group that picked up the most litter in St. Louis during the 2011 No MOre Trash! Bash.

New this year, we want to recognize St. Louis' top non-maintenance group that picked up the most litter, which was the General Services department; Paul Sterrett, senior assistant counsel; and Carolyn Smith, Adopt-A-Highway coordinator. They picked up 108 bags

Southwest District

Bryan Ozbun

Bob Edwards

Southwest District at Work

1. Cassville Senior Maintenance Worker Clay Vaught mixes herbicide chemicals. Vaught and Cassville Senior Maintenance Worker Jesse Durossette, behind the wheel, spray the Route 76 roadside near Cassville.

2. Senior Highway Designer Donna Anderson of the Joplin regional office works with participants in a public meeting in Appleton City for a future safety project to add crossing arms at the railroad tracks on Route 52 in Appleton City.

3. Conducting a motor carrier parking survey at the Joplin I-44 Welcome Center are Senior Transportation Enforcement Investigator Leilani Stewart, left, and Traffic Senior Administrative Technician Vicky "Lucy" Luciano, both from the Joplin regional office.

4. Running a street sweeper along St. Clair County Route WW in Osceola is Joplin Senior Maintenance Worker Steve Beeler.

for more info

Customer Relations Manager Bob Edwards
Phone 417.895.7713
E-mail robert.edwards@modot.mo.gov

3025 E. Kearney
P.O. Box 868
Springfield, MO 65801

Six-Lane Route 65 Enhances Commerce, Roadway Safety

by Bob Edwards

Those who helped dedicate the Route 65 six-lane project in September acknowledged how well the work went over the past two years. They also looked ahead, predicting the project would generate rewards for the Springfield region for years to come.

Commuters, businesses and tourists all will benefit, District Engineer Becky Baltz and other speakers said.

■ Improved traffic flow means fewer delays for people going to and from their jobs. It also means quicker, more predictable freight movement.

■ Visitors should find travel to or through Springfield presents fewer hassles and less frustration.

■ The road is safer for all because fewer traffic backups are expected and a median wall prevents crossover crashes.

"It's going to keep Springfield companies strong and provide opportunities for their workers in the future," said Joe Carmichael of Springfield, a member of the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission.

U.S. 65 through Springfield is the first six-lane highway in the state outside of the St. Louis and Kansas City metro areas. The highway carries about 65,000 cars a day.

Also looking ahead was MoDOT Director Kevin Keith, who said MoDOT is anxious to continue its partnering relationship with Springfield and Greene County on other much-needed projects. The big drawback, he said, is inadequate money for construction.

"We have to figure out long-term how we're going to fund infrastructure in this country and in this state," Keith said. MoDOT and local governments will have to work together to find new ways to pay for future improvements, he said.

Partnership was a major theme in the Sept. 7 ribbon cutting in front of Corporate Business Systems, which faces Route 65 south of the Cherry Street bridge. Springfield contributed funds from the city's 1/8-cent transportation sales tax to the project, and Greene County added American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. Those infusions enabled MoDOT, using ARRA and district funds, to six-lane the entire 7-1/2 miles between I-44 on the north and Route 60 on the south instead of just a portion.

"That's the definition of leverage and collaboration," Springfield Mayor Jim O'Neal said.

The project will be vital to the region's continued economic development, Greene County Presiding Commissioner Jim Viebrock said. "We were thrilled to be part of this."

Mark Baumgartner

Cutting the ribbon are, from left, District Engineer Becky Baltz, MoDOT Director Kevin Keith, Missouri Highways and Transportation Commissioner Joe Carmichael, Greene County Presiding Commissioner Jim Viebrock, Missouri House Transportation Committee Chairman Charlie Denison and Springfield Mayor Jim O'Neal.

Springfield state Rep. Charlie Denison, chairman of the House Transportation Committee, pointed toward Route 65 and other road projects completed in recent years that MoDOT, Springfield and Greene County joined forces to build. "We should be so proud."

Project Manager Linda Bokel said the project features an extensive water detention system built underneath the old grass median before it was paved over. The system controls runoff.

"That is something no one sees but it is also an important part of the project," Bokel said.

When ARRA funds became available in early 2009 and the project was expanded, many MoDOT employees "jumped in to get plans developed in such a quick manner. Everyone understood the importance and everyone worked as a team."

The widening of Route 65, whose planning was begun more than 10 years ago, was very rewarding, she said. "It benefits so many people," Bokel said.

Former Branson Resident Engineer Gayle Davis, who retired in September after 38 years with MoDOT, was recognized for his work on the Route 65 six-laning project.

"Talkin' Transportation" Call-In Radio Show

KWTO 560 AM, Springfield

10-10:50 a.m. Wednesdays

radiospringfield.com

Southeast District

Mid-America Express Event Celebrates Completion of Route 67 Upgrade

To celebrate completion of the Route 67 project, the Mid-America Express event was held Aug. 26. The project included upgrading the route to four lanes from north of Poplar Bluff to Fredericktown in Madison County.

Events were held in Fredericktown, Greenville and Poplar Bluff.

Dr. Tom Lawson, Highway 67 Corporation chairman, receives a plaque from Mayor Ed DeGaris. Aug. 26, 2011 was declared "Dr. Tom Lawson Day" in Poplar Bluff.

"We were pleased to open the route more than a year ahead of schedule and under budget," said District Engineer Mark Shelton. "We look forward to seeing the economic development opportunities the upgrade will bring to the area, in addition to the safety improvements."

Improving Route 67 was made possible through the partnership of the Highway 67 Corporation, MoDOT and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Funding was secured for the project after Poplar Bluff voters passed a tax to pay for a portion of the construction, Missouri voters passed Amendment 3 and an agreement was reached with the Army Corps of Engineers.

"There is not a better investment I think we can make in the future of our state and citizens than infrastructure," said MoDOT Director Kevin Keith.

Keith explained that although we are making progress statewide, there is still work to be done but not adequate funding.

MoDOT Director Kevin Keith and U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Emerson speak with Mr. Harold Ellinghouse, member of the Highway 67 Corporation.

U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Emerson and Mr. Jim Belknap, one of the founding members of the Highway 67 Corporation, prepare to cut the ribbon at the Poplar Bluff event.

Southeast Employees Respond Quickly to Man in Need

On a hot summer day this August, Maintenance Supervisor Jamie Qualls and Senior Maintenance Worker Cory Gray were picking up signs along the roadway when they noticed something troubling. "We saw a man on the interstate on his hands and knees, and the heat index was over 100," said Qualls.

Pictured from left to right are Maintenance Supervisor Jamie Qualls, Senior Maintenance Worker Cory Gray and Intermediate Maintenance Worker David Patrick.

When they asked the man, who was later identified as Leon Walker, if he was okay, they quickly determined that he had gotten overheated. "The two of us have had first aid and CPR training, which did help out that day," said Qualls.

The employees helped Mr. Walker into the passenger side of their vehicle to cool him down and provided him with water. They kept the door open to ensure he did not cool down too fast, and they gave him the water slowly.

The employees then called for an ambulance and also contacted Intermediate Maintenance Worker David Patrick who was working nearby.

Patrick has worked as a volunteer firefighter for the Steele community for 15 years. He had been following a mower just south of Qualls and Gray when he was contacted to assist. "After I reached the scene, we determined that Mr. Walker had walked from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. without water, and he appeared to be suffering from heat exhaustion," said Patrick.

The quick attention of these employees from the Hayti maintenance building kept Mr. Walker alert and provided the help he needed to prevent further injury, but they look at it like just another day. "This is just part of our job along with maintaining the roads," said Qualls.

According to Darren Petrus from the District Safety and Health division, these employees may have helped prevent some serious health risks for Mr. Walker. "Without quick attention, heat exhaustion can progress to heatstroke, which is a life-threatening condition," said Petrus. "It's fortunate for Mr. Walker that these employees recognized the severity of his symptoms and provided the assistance he needed. I would encourage all employees to attend the First Aid/CPR courses that MoDOT offers so they are equally prepared to provide assistance to the public, friends or family members."

for more info

Customer Relations Manager Nicole Thieret
Phone 573.472.6632
E-mail nicole.thieret@modot.mo.gov

2675 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 160
Sikeston, MO 63801

Connections

The mission of *Connections* is to be a monthly source of Missouri Department of Transportation news and feature articles that connect employees statewide. It is distributed to MoDOT employees and retirees.

Community Relations
Missouri Department of Transportation
P. O. Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102
573.751.2840
www.modot.org

1-888 ASK MODOT

Editor
Laura Holloway

Design Coordinator
Dennis Forbis

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Laura Holloway, editor
573.751.5985
Laura.Holloway@modot.mo.gov

Additional copies are available upon request. Suggestions, questions and comments are always welcome.

Please share this publication and recycle it after reading.

Mission

Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

Missouri Department of Transportation
Community Relations
105 W. Capitol Avenue
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Return Service Requested

PreSort Std
U.S. Postage
PAID
Platteville, WI
53818
Permit No. 124

Flood Continues to Disrupt Travel

by DeAnne Rickabaugh

The Flood of 2011 is nothing like any other the Missouri River states ever experienced.

Since June, more than 70 miles of Missouri highways have been out of service as emergency releases from the upper reservoirs swelled the Big Muddy out of her banks.

Unlike other historic floods which rose and fell within weeks, this time the water flowed continuously over – and in many cases under – the Northwest and Kansas City Area Districts' highways for months. Entire sections of shoulder, pavement and foundation washed away in some areas.

In early September, water still covered approximately 65 miles of roadway in Missouri, primarily on lower volume roads according to Beth Wright, MoDOT's state maintenance engineer. Once the water fully recedes, it will take time to evaluate, design and repair the damaged areas.

Beth Wright, MoDOT state maintenance engineer toured flooded areas and was amazed by what she saw. "The Districts have been vigilant in their flood fight for over three months. It is sobering to view the extraordinary damage sustained to MoDOT's roads in the Northwest District. There were several locations where there should have been pavement in front of me, but I saw a deep, swift-moving current instead," she said.

Approaches to the bridges that carry U.S. 136, U.S. 159 and U.S. 59 over the river closed early on, cutting off easy access to Nebraska and Kansas. MoDOT partnered with those states and Iowa to create a regional detour that can be found along with other flooding information on MoDOT's website: *www.modot.org/flooding.*

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission awarded two emergency repair contracts in mid-September to begin the process of getting some of these flooded routes back open. Route 59 in Buchanan County from the Missouri River Bridge to Route 45 had contract repairs that began on Sept. 16 and initial repairs were complete the following day. However, the road cannot be opened until water is off the pavement. Once the route is open for travel, the contractor will continue with additional repairs and repaving using traffic control with a target completion date of Oct. 15.

Work also began on Route 136 in Atchison County for a 1.7 mile emergency repair project on a section of roadway that runs from Route D almost to Interstate 29. This is the first of several projects that will be necessary to restore access across Route 136 where four large gaps in the pavement exist. The purpose of this first emergency repair project is to fill three of the four gaps, as well as other shoulder repair work. The target completion for this project is Oct. 15.

"We are doing everything we can to get our roads open that were damaged by the flooding as quickly and safely as possible," said Don Wichern, MoDOT's Northwest District engineer.

Feeling the HEAT on I-44

by DeAnne Rickabaugh

Summer is a hot time for travel, which unfortunately brings an increase in traffic-related accidents and fatalities. For the past three summers, Missouri law enforcement has turned up the HEAT with High Enforcement Action Teams on Missouri roads to make travel safer.

The three-month "HEAT Is On" campaign continued with an Interstate 44 corridor project Sept. 17-18. Drivers saw more law enforcement officers on I-44 during the 24-hour period.

This year's project resulted in a total of 519 traffic citations including 52 seat belt tickets; 273 speeding tickets; and nine driving while intoxicated arrests. Nine fugitives were apprehended and seven drug arrests were made as a result of the crackdown.

Officers were on the lookout for speeders, aggressive drivers and impaired drivers. They also encouraged motorists to pay attention and buckle up.

For the past five years, Missouri has recorded the highest number of fatal and serious injury crashes between July and September. In the summer of 2010, 258 people were killed and 1,716 suffered disabling injuries.

While these numbers are disheartening, highway deaths overall are steadily decreasing. More people arrived alive on Missouri roads in 2010, the fifth year in a row with a reduction in roadway fatalities. In 2010, 821 people were killed in Missouri traffic crashes, helping Missouri meet its goal of 850 or fewer roadway fatalities by the end of 2012 – two years early! Not since Harry Truman was president has Missouri seen so few people killed in highway crashes.

"Drivers who ignore speed limits and seat belts, as well as those who drink and drive, put others' lives at risk," said Leanna Depue, chair of the executive committee of the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety.

Find out more at *www.saveMOlives.com.*